

An Overview of Racial Disproportionality in Juvenile Arrests and Offenses in South Carolina

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Introduction

The problem of race and the criminal justice system is not only one of immense complexity, but one that carries great importance for everyone. The belief that laws are enforced fairly and impartially is essential to the legitimacy of all civic and legal institutions. Unfortunately, this belief has not always been compatible with historical or contemporary reality, a problem which requires continual examination of policies and practices. This report attempts to examine a very narrow, yet vital, segment of the criminal justice process, racial disproportionality among juvenile arrest and offense rates.

The purpose of this report was to demonstrate the utility of South Carolina's incident based crime data, the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System, as an analytical tool to address matters of policy relevance. Though the scope of the report is narrow, the importance and relevance of the subject matter is undeniable and hopefully the policy implications of the findings will be worthwhile. As is the case with any such report it is important to understand the limitations of the data analysis and to understand the findings within the context of those limitations.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the sheriffs, chiefs of police, state and local law enforcement officers as well as the administrative staff whose hard work in gather, reviewing and submitting crime incident data to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) made publication of this report possible. It is also important to note that publications such as this would not be possible without the ongoing and active assistance of SLED's Crime Information Center. The report itself is a product of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Statistical Analysis Center; funded by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) from an award to JRSA from the Bureau of Justice Statistics

An Overview of Racial Disproportionality in Juvenile Arrests and Offenses in South Carolina

Minority racial populations, specifically Blacks, accounted for the majority of adult inmates (SCDC, 2012), the majority of community corrections admissions (SCDPPPS, 2012) and the majority of adult arrests in South Carolina (SLED; 2008, 2009). Minority overrepresentation is no less of a problem in the juvenile justice system. Black juveniles represent the majority of the referrals to the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ, 2012) as well as the majority of the juveniles arrested statewide (SLED; 2008, 2009). Unfortunately, efforts to systematically examine the problem of disproportionate minority contact with the criminal justice system in South Carolina have been sparse. However one previous effort has provided some worthwhile insights, examining racial disproportionality at specific points in the juvenile justice process: the decision to detain juveniles prior to adjudication, the decision to prosecute juveniles, the decision to commit juveniles for evaluation and the decision to commit juveniles for long term incarceration (Motes, 2003). However a particularly important decision point in the juvenile justice process was not included in that analysis, that of juvenile arrests. The purpose of this report is to provide a descriptive overview concerning the nature and extent of racial disproportionality among juveniles for both the arrest process and reported criminal offenses. This report focused on juvenile arrests and offenses throughout South Carolina during 2008 and 2009.

Juvenile Population

In keeping with the statutorily defined age of adult criminal responsibility in South Carolina of seventeen years of age, juveniles were defined as being children sixteen years of age or younger. Using this statutory definition, juveniles accounted for 22.3% of South Carolina's population in 2008 and 2009. The ten years of age and younger category accounted for 65.3% of South Carolina's juvenile population.

Juvenile Population by Age

Age Group	2008	2009
10 & younger	657,764	666,435
11	56,134	57,397
12	57,062	56,664
13	58,031	57,620
14	58,624	58,627
15	61,018	59,230
16	62,170	61,509
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

It is important to note that census estimates measure race and ethnicity (Hispanic or Non-Hispanic) separately. For the purpose of this study, those categories were combined and modified to create an additional racial category of Hispanic. This category included any juvenile with an ethnic categorization of Hispanic, regardless of the racial category. Consequently, when reference is made to race throughout this report, juveniles identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Native American or White were also categorized as being of Non-Hispanic ethnicity. Juveniles identified as being of Hispanic race were categorized as being a member of one of those races in the census estimate and of Hispanic ethnicity. For example, a juvenile who had been identified as being both White and Hispanic in the population estimates, for the purpose of this report, was reported as being of Hispanic race. A juvenile identified as being White and Non-Hispanic was reported as being White. Using this modified racial categorization, Whites were the largest racial group in the juvenile population in 2008 and 2009, accounting for 57.8% of the total. Blacks accounted for 32.7% of the two year juvenile population, Hispanics accounted for 7.4%, Asian/Pacific Islanders accounted for 1.6% and Native Americans accounted for 0.4%. Particularly noteworthy is the increase of 5,380 in the estimated number of Hispanic juveniles from 2008 to 2009, an increase of 7.4% over the course of a single year.

Juvenile Population by Race

Race	2008	2009
Asian/Pacific Islander	16,029	16,789
Black	332,365	331,158
Hispanic	72,758	78,138
Native American	4,154	4,204
White	585,497	587,193
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

The majority of South Carolina's juvenile population was male in 2008 and 2009. Males accounted for 51.2% of the juvenile population; females accounted for 48.8% of the state's juvenile population.

Juvenile Population by Sex

Sex	2008	2009
Female	493,528	496,289
Male	517,275	521,193
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

White males constituted the single largest race/sex category accounting for 29.7% of the state's 2008 and 2009 juvenile population, followed by White females which accounted for 28.1%.

Juvenile Population by Race/Sex

Race/Sex	2008	2009
Asian/Pacific Islander		
Female	8,027	8,393
Male	8,002	8,396
Black		
Female	163,674	162,842
Male	168,691	168,316
Hispanic		
Female	35,173	37,679
Male	37,585	40,459
Native American		
Female	2,043	2,072
Male	2,111	2,132
White		
Female	284,611	285,303
Male	300,886	301,890
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

As much of the disproportionality analysis centers on comparisons of White juveniles to the combination of all other racial categories of juveniles, a two-part racial category was created for those comparisons. A racial minority category labeled Minority consisting of Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic and Native American juveniles was created for the comparison to White juveniles. The Minority category accounted for 42.2% of the state's total juvenile population. Black juveniles accounted for 77.6% of the Minority juvenile population.

Juvenile Population by Racial Category

Racial Category	2008	2009
Minority	425,306	430,289
White	585,497	587,193
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

White males were the largest racial/sex category accounting for 29.7% of the juvenile population in 2008 and 2009. White females were the second largest racial/sex category accounting for 28% of the population followed by Minority males (21.6%) and Minority females (20.7%).

Juvenile Population by Racial Category/Sex

Racial Category/Sex	2008	2009
Minority		
Female	208,917	210,986
Male	216,389	219,303
White		
Female	284,611	285,303
Male	300,886	301,890
Total	1,010,803	1,017,482

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

South Carolina has a total of 46 counties representing a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas, with juvenile populations that ranged from less than 2,000 to more than 100,000. Greenville County had the largest juvenile population with an average of 104,146 during 2008 and 2009. McCormick County had the smallest juvenile population with a two year average population of 1,399. Although the state's juvenile population increased from 2008 to 2009, 22 counties experienced a decline in juvenile population during that time frame. Among the counties experiencing a decrease in juvenile population, all but one had a juvenile population of 20,000 or less.

Counties by Juvenile Population

County	2008	2009	County	2008	2009
Abbeville	5,358	5,261	Greenwood	15,852	15,913
Aiken	34,184	33,974	Hampton	4,991	5,009
Allendale	2,312	2,258	Horry	50,614	51,343
Anderson	41,845	42,188	Jasper	5,547	5,595
Bamberg	3,236	3,171	Kershaw	14,070	14,190
Barnwell	5,533	5,430	Lancaster	17,044	17,275
Beaufort	31,667	32,159	Laurens	15,014	14,840
Berkeley	40,309	40,925	Lee	4,243	4,080
Calhoun	2,870	2,857	Lexington	58,926	59,984
Charleston	70,952	71,289	McCormick	1,421	1,377
Cherokee	12,611	12,551	Marion	8,092	7,854
Chester	7,461	7,319	Marlboro	6,045	5,976
Chesterfield	10,122	9,999	Newberry	8,432	8,575
Clarendon	6,904	6,727	Oconee	14,402	14,448
Colleton	9,265	9,056	Orangeburg	20,554	20,148
Darlington	15,439	15,167	Pickens	23,611	23,615
Dillon	8,063	8,124	Richland	82,220	83,118
Dorchester	32,393	32,866	Saluda	4,193	4,152
Edgefield	5,071	5,066	Spartanburg	65,209	65,834
Fairfield	5,156	5,086	Sumter	25,553	25,462
Florence	31,804	32,063	Union	5,919	5,890
Georgetown	12,828	12,712	Williamsburg	7,532	7,344
Greenville	103,173	105,118	York	52,763	54,094

Source: ORS, Population estimates.

Lee County had the highest percentage of minority juvenile population in 2008 and 2009 with 74.7% of the county's juvenile population being Minority. Pickens County had the lowest percentage Minority population with 15%. Williamsburg County had the highest percentage of Black children with 71.3% of the juvenile population being Black; Pickens County had the lowest percentage of Blacks in the juvenile population with 8.3%. Saluda County had the highest percentage of Hispanics in the juvenile population in 2008 and 2009 with 25.9%; McCormick County and Williamsburg County had the lowest percentage of Hispanic juveniles with 1.4%.

**Counties by Percentage of Juvenile Population Black, Hispanic and Minority
2008 and 2009**

County	Black	Hispanic	Minority	County	Black	Hispanic	Minority
Abbeville	31.5%	1.7%	33.3%	Greenwood	35.2%	9.5%	46.6%
Aiken	30.8%	6.7%	38.7%	Hampton	59.3%	3.6%	63.3%
Allendale	80.4%	4.1%	85.0%	Horry	19.7%	9.2%	31.0%
Anderson	20.3%	4.0%	25.6%	Jasper	44.1%	22.7%	67.5%
Bamberg	64.7%	2.5%	67.6%	Kershaw	28.5%	5.0%	34.4%
Barnwell	51.5%	2.8%	55.4%	Lancaster	28.5%	6.9%	36.5%
Beaufort	24.4%	19.1%	45.3%	Laurens	27.6%	7.0%	35.3%
Berkeley	28.9%	7.4%	39.0%	Lee	69.2%	5.2%	74.7%
Calhoun	47.6%	4.2%	52.1%	Lexington	19.3%	7.4%	28.8%
Charleston	36.9%	7.7%	46.6%	McCormick	57.5%	1.4%	59.9%
Cherokee	24.4%	5.8%	31.0%	Marion	62.5%	4.0%	67.2%
Chester	43.6%	2.7%	47.2%	Marlboro	55.5%	1.8%	62.8%
Chesterfield	39.6%	5.0%	45.7%	Newberry	35.0%	16.9%	52.3%
Clarendon	53.7%	5.5%	60.2%	Oconee	10.2%	7.6%	18.4%
Colleton	45.5%	3.6%	50.4%	Orangeburg	67.1%	2.8%	71.2%
Darlington	49.3%	2.0%	52.0%	Pickens	8.3%	5.2%	15.0%
Dillon	52.1%	5.4%	61.0%	Richland	53.2%	6.2%	62.5%
Dorchester	29.3%	5.6%	37.3%	Saluda	26.9%	25.9%	53.0%
Edgefield	37.6%	5.0%	43.1%	Spartanburg	23.5%	9.1%	35.8%
Fairfield	64.0%	2.9%	67.3%	Sumter	50.3%	4.6%	56.5%
Florence	47.2%	3.1%	52.1%	Union	36.4%	1.5%	38.3%
Georgetown	40.2%	5.2%	46.1%	Williamsburg	71.3%	1.4%	73.4%
Greenville	20.9%	11.9%	35.9%	York	22.8%	7.0%	32.7%

Source: ORS, Population Estimates.

Juvenile Arrests

The South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) is maintained by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and provided the basis of all arrest, offense and offender information used in this report. SCIBRS requires that an arrest be recorded on all persons processed by arrest, apprehension, warrant service or Uniform Traffic Ticket for committing offenses within the reporting jurisdiction. SCIBRS specifically requires reporting and including as an arrest, not only juveniles who are taken into custody but also those who are stopped and merely warned and/or released without being formally charged. The only noted exception to this rule involves routine traffic offenses; those situations are not required to be reported as an arrest. All arrest rates are expressed in terms of the number of arrests per 10,000 juveniles, or for the particular juvenile sub-population of interest.

Demographic Characteristics

There were a total of 33,024 juvenile arrests for 2008 and 2009, accounting for 7.6% of all arrests during that time period. Sixteen year olds accounted for 33.4% of juvenile arrests from 2008 to 2009.

Juvenile Arrests by Age

Age	2008	2009	Total
10 & younger	219	190	409
11	425	385	810
12	1,003	1,004	2,007
13	2,191	1,718	3,909
14	3,237	2,928	6,165
15	4,630	4,048	8,678
16	5,770	5,276	11,046
Total	17,475	15,549	33,024

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Juvenile arrestees were predominately male, males accounted for 68.5% of the juveniles arrested in 2008 and 2009.

Juvenile Arrests by Sex

	2008	2009	Total
Female	5,506	4,894	10,400
Male	11,969	10,655	22,624
Total	17,475	15,549	33,024

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

As was the case with the census population estimates, SCIBRS categorizes juvenile arrestees both by racial group (Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Native American and White) and ethnicity (Hispanic and Non-Hispanic). The same process was used with the SCIBRS data to classify juvenile arrestees: a racial category of Hispanic was created and includes any juvenile arrestee who was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of their race. Juveniles identified as Non-Hispanic were categorized according to their race. As a result, juveniles racially categorized as being Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Native American or White and of Non-Hispanic ethnicity were categorized according to race; all juveniles identified as being of Hispanic ethnicity were categorized as being of Hispanic race regardless of their original racial classification. Using that definition, Black juveniles accounted for 58.5% of all juvenile arrests for 2008 and 2009, White juveniles accounted for 37.6% of juvenile arrests, Hispanics accounted for 3.6% of juvenile arrests while Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American juveniles each accounted for less than 1% of juvenile arrests.

Juvenile Arrests by Race

	2008	2009	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	40	38	78
Black	10,147	9,025	19,172
Hispanic	623	566	1,189
Native American	19	9	28
White	6,568	5,752	12,320
Total	17,397	15,390	32,787

Note: 237 juvenile arrestees were missing either race and/or ethnicity or were of unknown race or ethnicity and could not be classified.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Racial minority group members (Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic and Native American) accounted for 62.4% of juvenile arrests during 2008 and 2009. Whites accounted for 37.6% of juvenile arrests.

Juvenile Arrests by Racial Category

	2008	2009	Total
Minority	10,829	9,638	20,467
White	6,568	5,752	12,320
Total	17,397	15,390	32,787

Note: 237 juvenile arrestees were missing either race and/or ethnicity or were of unknown race or ethnicity and could not be classified.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Minority males accounted for 43.1% of juvenile arrests in 2008 and 2009. White males accounted for 25.5%, racial minority females accounted for 19.4% and White females accounted for 12.1%.

Juvenile Arrests by Racial Category/Sex

	2008	2009	Total
Racial Minority			
Female	3,375	2,975	6,350
Male	7,454	6,663	14,117
White			
Female	2,100	1,866	3,966
Male	4,468	3,886	8,354
Total	17,397	15,390	32,787

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Arrest Offenses and Associated Circumstances

SCIBRS records up to three offenses per arrest event. For the purpose of this report, a hierarchical categorization of arrest offenses consisting of seven categories was created. At the top of the scale was the category of serious violent offenses. The serious violent offense category included murder, rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, robbery and aggravated assault. If one of the preceding offenses was reported among the three arrest offenses, then the arrest was categorized as a serious violent offense. The second ranking offense in the hierarchy was weapons offenses. If a serious violent offense was not reported and a weapons law violation offense was reported, then the arrest offense was categorized as a weapons offense. The third ranking offense category in the hierarchy was lesser serious violent offenses. If neither a serious violent offense nor a weapons offense was reported among the three offenses and an offense of kidnapping, simple assault or intimidation was reported, then the arrest offense was categorized as a lesser violent offense. If neither a serious violent offense, a weapons offense nor a lesser violent offense was reported, and an offense of larceny, embezzlement, fraud, burglary, motor vehicle theft or a stolen property offense was reported, then the arrest offense was classified as a property offense. If neither a serious violent offense, a weapons offense, a lesser violent offense nor a property offense was reported and a drug or drug equipment offense was reported, then the arrest offense was categorized as a drug offense. If neither a serious violent, a weapons offense, a lesser violent offense, a property offense nor a drug offense was reported and an offense of incorrigible child, truancy or runaway was reported, then the arrest offense was classified as a status offense. Finally, if a serious violent offense, weapons offense, property offense, drug offense or status offense was not reported, then the arrest offense was categorized as being in the all other offense category.

The other offenses category was the single largest offense category, accounting for 32.8% of all arrests in 2008 and 2009. The arrests for property offenses category was the second largest offense category, accounting for 25.9% of the total, followed by lesser violent offenses which accounted for 19.2% of all juvenile arrests. Serious violent offenses accounted for 5.9% of juvenile arrests during the two year period.

Juvenile Arrests by Hierarchical Offense Category

	2008	2009	Total
Serious Violent	1,049	898	1,947
Weapons	630	504	1,134
Lesser Violent	3,288	3,057	6,345
Property	4,409	4,143	8,552
Drugs	1,469	1,409	2,878
Status	745	583	1,328
Other Offenses	5,885	4,955	10,840
Total	17,475	15,549	33,024

Source: SCIRBS, SLED.

Disorderly conduct was the specific offense most frequently reported within the other offenses category, followed by all other (a specific SCIBRS offense code). The hierarchy was constructed so that juveniles with a status offense and an offense in the other offense category would be categorized as a status offender. This was done to ensure that juvenile offenders arrested for a status offense and relatively minor other offenses would be identified as status offenders. As a result, it may represent something of an overestimate of the number of status offenders; however this definition serves to ensure that any status offenders who were charged with additional minor offenses would be identified as a status offender.

Other Offenses by Specific Arrest Offense 2008 and 2009

Offense	Number	Percent
All Other	2,958	25.5%
Disorderly Conduct	4,737	40.9%
Liquor Laws	744	6.4%
Other	1,109	9.6%
Trespassing	649	5.6%
Vandalism	1,396	12.0%
Total	11,593	100.0%

Notes: The offense category all other is a specific code. The number of other offenses in this table exceeds the total of other offenses in the preceding table because multiple arrest offenses are recorded in SCIBRS.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

SCIBRS identifies how an arrestee was apprehended. The initial contact of the law enforcement officer with the arrestee was classified into one of three categories: on-sight arrests, summoned/cited or arrested on the basis of a pre-existing warrant. On-sight arrests include arrests that take place without a warrant or previous incident report and typically involve an officer arriving while the incident is in progress or shortly thereafter. Summoned/cited includes situations where the arrestee is released at the scene using a Uniform Traffic Ticket. Warrant arrests are the result of an officer coming into contact with a suspect already named in a warrant or incident report. Both on-sight arrests and warrant arrests involve the law enforcement officer taking the subject into some level of custody for a period of time.

On-sight arrests were the most frequently (63.2%) reported type of juvenile arrest in 2008 and 2009. Arrests based on pre-existing warrants accounted for 19.6% of juvenile arrests and uniform traffic tickets accounted for 17.2%.

Juveniles by Type of Arrest

Type Arrest	2008	2009	Total
On-Sight Arrests	11,122	9,596	20,718
Uniform Traffic Ticket	2,925	2,707	5,632
Warrant	3,350	3,087	6,437
Total	17,397	15,390	32,787

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

SCIBRS collects information regarding the type of referral concerning any arrestees 17 years of age or younger; i.e., how these cases were handled by the department of jurisdiction. Arrestees were classified either as having been handled internally within the department meaning they were taken into custody but released to parents, guardians, etc.; or they were classified as having been referred to another local, state or federal agency.

External referrals to other agencies accounted for 58.9% of the custody types reported for juveniles arrested in 2008 and 2009, 41.1 % of juveniles were handled internally.

Juvenile Arrestees by Referral Type

Referral Type	2008	2009	Total
Handled Internally	7,255	6,302	13,557
Referred Externally	10,220	9,247	19,467
Total	17,475	15,549	33,024

Note: Although these data were collected for arrestees 17 and younger, only juvenile arrestees (16 and younger) were included in this table.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

SCIBRS identifies arrestees who were armed at the time of arrest and the type(s) of weapon(s) with which they were armed. Information concerning weapon types is collected for up to two weapons per arrest. Juveniles who were arrested with a firearm were placed in the firearms category weapon. Juveniles arrested with a weapon that was not with a firearm were placed in the other weapons category. Juveniles arrested for whom no weapon was reported at the time of arrest were categorized as unarmed.

Reports of arrests of juveniles armed at the time of arrest were infrequent. Such arrests accounted for only 3% of juvenile arrests during 2008 and 2009. Arrests of juveniles armed with firearms were reported even less frequently. Only 1.1% of juveniles arrested in 2008 and 2009 were reported to have been in possession of a firearm at the time they were apprehended.

Juveniles Armed at Time of Arrest by Weapon Status

Weapon Status	2008	2009	Total
Firearms	222	165	387
Other Weapons	332	266	598
Unarmed	16,921	15,118	32,039
Total	17,475	15,549	33,024

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Charleston County reported more juvenile arrests than any other county during the 2008 and 2009 time period. McCormick County reported the fewest juvenile arrests during the same two year period.

Juvenile Arrests by County

County	2008	2009	Total	County	2008	2009	Total
Abbeville	36	60	96	Greenwood	348	362	710
Aiken	406	330	736	Hampton	13	21	34
Allendale	17	12	29	Horry	1,514	1,195	2,709
Anderson	520	479	999	Jasper	51	29	80
Bamberg	23	35	58	Kershaw	60	60	120
Barnwell	181	144	325	Lancaster	162	177	339
Beaufort	1,135	898	2,033	Laurens	268	225	493
Berkeley	1,114	1,023	2,137	Lee	36	28	64
Calhoun	19	18	37	Lexington	526	423	949
Charleston	2,585	2,134	4,719	McCormick	2	2	4
Cherokee	29	47	76	Marion	167	219	386
Chester	91	79	170	Marlboro	14	10	24
Chesterfield	82	110	192	Newberry	323	260	583
Clarendon	64	61	125	Oconee	149	123	272
Colleton	98	87	185	Orangeburg	166	166	332
Darlington	272	259	531	Pickens	390	342	732
Dillon	81	116	197	Richland	437	501	938
Dorchester	552	487	1,039	Saluda	17	4	21
Edgefield	4	4	8	Spartanburg	451	424	875
Fairfield	163	177	340	Sumter	214	229	443
Florence	726	701	1,427	Union	125	167	292
Georgetown	363	318	681	Williamsburg	88	64	152
Greenville	2,167	1,819	3,986	York	1,148	961	2,109

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Newberry County had the highest juvenile arrest rate, 342.8 per 10,000, during the 2008 to 2009 time period. Edgefield County had the lowest juvenile arrest rate, 7.9 per 10,000, over the same time period.

Juvenile Arrest Rates by County

County	2008	2009	Total	County	2008	2009	Total
Abbeville	67.2	114.0	90.4	Greenwood	219.5	227.5	223.5
Aiken	118.8	97.1	108.0	Hampton	26.0	41.9	34.0
Allendale	73.5	53.1	63.5	Horry	299.1	232.7	265.7
Anderson	124.3	113.5	118.9	Jasper	91.9	51.8	71.8
Bamberg	71.1	110.4	90.5	Kershaw	42.6	42.3	42.5
Barnwell	327.1	265.2	296.5	Lancaster	95.0	102.5	98.8
Beaufort	358.4	279.2	318.5	Laurens	178.5	151.6	165.1
Berkeley	276.4	250.0	263.1	Lee	84.8	68.6	76.9
Calhoun	66.2	63.0	64.6	Lexington	89.3	70.5	79.8
Charleston	364.3	299.3	331.8	McCormick	14.1	14.5	14.3
Cherokee	23.0	37.4	30.2	Marion	206.4	278.8	242.1
Chester	122.0	107.9	115.0	Marlboro	23.2	16.7	20.0
Chesterfield	81.0	110.0	95.4	Newberry	383.1	303.2	342.8
Clarendon	92.7	90.7	91.7	Oconee	103.5	85.1	94.3
Colleton	105.8	96.1	101.0	Orangeburg	80.8	82.4	81.6
Darlington	176.2	170.8	173.5	Pickens	165.2	144.8	155.0
Dillon	100.5	142.8	121.7	Richland	53.2	60.3	56.7
Dorchester	170.4	148.2	159.2	Saluda	40.5	9.6	25.2
Edgefield	7.9	7.9	7.9	Spartanburg	69.2	64.4	66.8
Fairfield	316.1	348.0	332.0	Sumter	83.7	89.9	86.8
Florence	228.3	218.6	223.4	Union	211.2	283.5	247.3
Georgetown	283.0	250.2	266.6	Williamsburg	116.8	87.1	102.2
Greenville	210.0	173.0	191.4	York	217.6	177.7	197.4

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Juvenile Offenders

Similar to the process of collecting information concerning arrests and arrestees, SCIBRS collects information concerning offenders involved in the commission of reported criminal incidents. It is important to note that there are a number of distinctions between SCIBRS data relating to arrestees and SCIBRS data relating to offenders. Offender data are more comprehensive as they include all reported incidents, not just those that result in an offender being arrested. However, offender data are somewhat less precise as characteristics such as age, race and ethnicity are sometimes difficult for witnesses or victims to report accurately. Arrestee data are limited to incidents in which an arrest was made, but is likely more accurate than offender data since the arrestee is actually in law enforcement custody and therefore factors such as age, race, sex and others should be easily and accurately ascertained. Both arrest and offense data are used in this report in order to provide the most comprehensive overview possible.

Demographic Characteristics

There were a total of 63,147 juvenile offenders reported during 2008 and 2009. The number of juvenile offenders increases by each individual year age group. Sixteen year olds were the most frequently reported age group and accounted for 31% of juvenile offenders. Juveniles ten years of age or younger accounted for 6.4% of juvenile offenders.

Juvenile Offenders by Age

Age	2008	2009	Total
10 & Younger	1,998	2,025	4,023
11	1,182	1,077	2,259
12	2,229	2,025	4,254
13	4,036	3,147	7,183
14	5,675	5,082	10,757
15	7,915	7,155	15,070
16	10,144	9,457	19,601
Total	33,179	29,968	63,147

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

The juvenile offender population was predominately male. Of the total reported juvenile offenders, 72.9% of juvenile offenders were male and 27.1% were female.

Juvenile Offenders by Sex

Sex	2008	2009	Total
Female	8,748	8,146	16,894
Male	24,127	21,383	45,510
Total	32,875	29,529	62,404

Note: There were 743 juvenile offenders of unknown sex.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

A total of 1,929 juvenile offenders were missing race/ethnicity data or were reported as being of unknown race and/or ethnicity. Blacks accounted for 59.2% of juvenile offenders in 2008 and 2009. Whites accounted for 37.7% followed by Hispanics with 2.8%, Asian/Pacific Islanders at 0.2% and Native Americans at 0.1%. Minority offenders accounted for 62.3% of juvenile offenders.

Juvenile Offenders by Race

Race	2008	2009	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	63	67	130
Black	19,219	17,002	36,221
Hispanic	847	857	1,704
Native American	34	33	67
White	12,129	10,967	23,096
Total	32,292	28,926	61,218

Note: There were 1,929 juvenile offenders of unknown race or ethnicity.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Black males accounted for 43.3% of juvenile offenders in 2008 and 2009. White males accounted for 27.2% of all juvenile offenders, followed by Black females at 15.8%, White females at 10.6% and Hispanic males at 2.1%. Asian/Pacific Islander females, Asian/Pacific Islander males, Hispanic females, Native American males and Native American females each accounted for less than 1% of all juvenile offenders

Juvenile Offenders by Race and Sex

Racial Category/ Sex	2008	2009	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander			
Female	16	13	29
Male	47	54	101
Black			
Female	5,103	4,579	9,682
Male	14,106	12,414	26,520
Hispanic			
Female	211	216	427
Male	635	641	1,276
Native American			
Female	11	12	23
Male	23	21	44
White			
Female	3,288	3,184	6,472
Male	8,841	7,782	16,623
Total	32,281	28,916	61,197

Note: Of the 61,218 juvenile offenders identified by race and ethnicity, there were 21 with missing data or of unknown sex.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Offense Characteristics

SCIBRS collects more than thirty location type codes identifying the type of place at which an offense occurred. These location codes were collapsed into the seven comprehensive categories listed below. The most frequently reported location associated with juvenile offenders was private residence, which accounted for 38.8% of all locations. The private residence category included houses, apartments, condominiums and any other privately owned residence. The second most frequent location category was schools, which is defined as any educational establishment that includes classes of kindergarten through 12th grade. The schools location accounted for 25.1% of all reported juvenile offenses.

Juvenile Offenders by Offense Location 2008 and 2009

Location	Number	Percent
Commercial	1,775	2.8%
Highway, Road, Street	7,150	11.3%
Other	3,917	6.2%
Parking Lot	2,129	3.4%
Private Residence	24,503	38.8%
Retail	7,820	12.4%
School	15,853	25.1%
Total	63,147	100.0%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

More juvenile offenses were reported on Friday than any other day of the week. Fewer offenses were reported on Sunday than any other day of the week.

Juvenile Offenders by Incident Day of the Week 2008 and 2009

Day of the Week	Number	Percent
Sunday	6,799	10.8%
Monday	9,039	14.3%
Tuesday	9,644	15.3%
Wednesday	9,913	15.7%
Thursday	9,585	15.2%
Friday	10,464	16.6%
Saturday	7,703	12.2%
Total	63,147	100.0%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Juvenile offenses were reported most frequently during the 3:00 PM to 3:59 PM hour. Offenses committed in the early afternoon (3:00 PM to 5:59 PM) accounted for 23% of reported juvenile offenses. Juvenile offenses were reported least frequently during the 5:00 AM to 5:59 AM hour. The early morning hours, 1:00 AM to 6:59 AM accounted for only 4.5% of juvenile offenses.

**Juvenile Offenders by Offense Time of Day
2008 and 2009**

Time of Day	Number	Percent
Midnight - 12:59 PM	1,812	2.9%
1:00 - 1:59 AM	1,017	1.6%
2:00 - 2:59 AM	746	1.2%
3:00 - 3:59 AM	426	0.7%
4:00 - 4:59 AM	387	0.6%
5:00 - 5:59 AM	243	0.4%
6:00 - 6:59 AM	549	0.9%
7:00 - 7:59 AM	1,903	3.0%
8:00 - 8:59 AM	3,476	5.5%
9:00 - 9:59 AM	2,155	3.4%
10:00 - 10:59 AM	2,394	3.8%
11:00 - 11:59 AM	2,920	4.7%
Noon - 12:59 PM	3,968	6.3%
1:00 - 1:59 PM	3,670	5.8%
2:00 - 2:59 PM	4,146	6.6%
3:00 - 3:59 PM	5,511	8.8%
4:00 - 4:59 PM	4,709	7.5%
5:00 - 5:59 PM	4,189	6.7%
6:00 - 6:59 PM	4,088	6.5%
7:00 - 7:59 PM	3,913	6.2%
8:00 - 8:59 PM	3,517	5.6%
9:00 - 9:59 PM	2,811	4.5%
10:00 - 10:59 PM	2,441	3.9%
11:00 - 11:59 PM	1,769	2.8%
Total	62,760	100.0%

Note: 387 cases had missing or invalid time data.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

SCIBRS records up to three weapon types per offense. The count of weapon types can differ from the actual number of weapons used, for example if two handguns and a rifle were reported in the commission of a crime, SCIBRS would record two weapon types, handgun and rifle. The use of deadly weapons was reported infrequently among juvenile offenders and the use of firearms by juvenile offenders was reported even less frequently. In 2008 and 2009, 6,609 juvenile offenders were reported to have used a total number of 7,019 deadly weapon types in the commission of a crime, representing 10.8% of the total number of reported juvenile offenders in 2008 and 2009. As a subset of all deadly weapons, 1,648 or 2.7% of juvenile offenders were reported to have used a total of 1,655 firearm types in the commission of a crime. Firearms accounted for 23.6% of the total number of the deadly weapon types reported.

**Deadly Weapon Use Involving Juvenile Offenders
2008 and 2009**

Weapon	Number	Percent
Blunt Object	714	10.2%
Firearms	1,655	23.6%
Handgun	1,052	15.0%
Other Firearm	177	2.5%
Rifle	63	0.9%
Shotgun	100	1.4%
Unknown Firearm	263	3.7%
Knife	1,853	26.4%
Other	2,797	39.8%
Total	7,019	100.0%

Notes: Personal weapons (fists, feet, etc.) were not included in this table. Each type of firearm is a subset of the firearms category, so the total of the number and percent columns does not equal the actual total.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Indicators of Racial Disproportionality

The primary measure used to determine racial disproportionality in this report is the relative rate index (RRI). An RRI is calculated by dividing the arrest or offense rate for the subpopulation of interest by the corresponding rate for the subpopulation being used as the basis of comparison. For all of these analyses, White juveniles were used as the basis of comparison to calculate the RRI. The utility of the RRI is to indicate in an easily understood manner the degree to which the arrest or offense rate for a particular group is greater or smaller than the arrest rate for the comparison group. An RRI above 1.0 indicates the degree to which the arrest or offense rate for that group is greater than the arrest or offense rate for White juveniles. An RRI below 1.0 indicates the degree to which the arrest or offense rate for that group is less than the arrest or offense rate for White juveniles.

The highest juvenile arrest rates were among Black juveniles, followed by the arrest rates for White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

Juvenile Arrest Rates by Race

Race	2008	2009	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	25.0	22.6	23.8
Black	305.3	272.5	288.9
Hispanic	85.6	72.4	78.8
Native American	45.7	21.4	33.5
White	112.2	98.0	105.1
Total	172.1	151.3	161.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Blacks had an overall juvenile arrest rate 2.8 times the juvenile arrest rate for Whites. By contrast, the juvenile arrest rate for all other races was lower than the juvenile arrest rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for Hispanics was 80% of the juvenile arrest rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for Native Americans was 30% of the arrest rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for Asian/Pacific Islanders was 20% of the arrest rate for Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Juvenile Arrests by Race

Race	2008	2009	Total
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black	2.7	2.8	2.8
Hispanic	0.8	0.7	0.8
Native American	0.4	0.2	0.3
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The arrest rate for Minority juveniles was higher than the juvenile arrest rate for White juveniles in 2008 and 2009.

Juvenile Arrest Rates by Racial Category

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Minority	251.7	224.0	239.2
White	112.2	98.0	105.1
Total	172.1	151.3	161.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The relative rate index for 2008 and 2009 comparing Minority juveniles to White juveniles was 2.3.

Relative Rate Index for Juvenile Arrests by Racial Category

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Minority	2.2	2.3	2.3
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate among Minority males was higher than the juvenile arrest rate among White males. The juvenile arrest rate among Minority females was higher than the juvenile arrest rate among White females.

Juvenile Arrest Rate by Racial Category/Sex

Racial Category/ Sex	2008	2009	Total
Minority			
Female	161.5	141.0	151.2
Male	344.5	303.8	324.0
White			
Female	73.8	65.4	69.6
Male	148.5	128.7	138.6
Total	172.1	151.3	161.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The outcome of the comparison of juvenile arrest rates for Minority males to White males was similar to that for the comparison of juvenile arrest rates for Minority females to White females. The RRI comparing Minority juvenile females to White juvenile females was 2.2. The RRI for the comparison of Minority juvenile males to White juvenile males was 2.3.

Relative Rate Index for Juvenile Arrests by Racial Category/Sex

Racial Category/ Sex	2008	2009	Total
Minority			
Female	2.2	2.2	2.2
Male	2.3	2.4	2.3
White			
Female	1.0	1.0	1.0
Male	1.0	1.0	1.0

Note: The RRI in this table were calculated by comparing the arrest rate for Minority females to White females and Minority males to White males.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Black and Minority juveniles had higher arrest rates for serious violent offenses than White juveniles in 2008 and 2009. The arrest rate for Hispanic juveniles was lower than the arrest rate for White juveniles.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Serious Violent Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	22.0	19.1	20.6
Hispanic	4.3	2.5	3.2
Minority	18.0	15.2	16.6
White	4.8	4.0	4.4

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The level of disproportionality for serious violent offense juvenile arrest rates was high for Black and Minority categories relative to Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for serious violent offenses among Minority juveniles was 3.8 times the juvenile arrest rate for serious violent offenses for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for serious violent offenses among Black juveniles was 4.7 times the rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for serious violent offenses among Hispanics was lower than the arrest rate for Whites.

Relative Rate Indices by Serious Violent Offense Arrests

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	4.6	4.7	4.7
Hispanic	0.9	0.6	0.7
Minority	3.8	3.8	3.8
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The highest arrest rate for weapons offenses was among Black juveniles, followed in order by Minority juveniles, White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Weapons Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	10.7	8.2	9.5
Hispanic	4.4	2.6	3.4
Minority	9.3	6.9	8.1
White	4.0	3.4	3.7

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for weapon offenses among Blacks was 2.5 times the rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for weapons offenses among Minorities was 2.2 times the rate among Whites. For Hispanics, the juvenile arrest rate for weapon offenses was 90% of the arrest rate among Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Weapons Offense Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	2.7	2.4	2.5
Hispanic	1.1	0.8	0.9
Minority	2.3	2.0	2.2
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The highest juvenile arrest rate for lesser violent offenses for 2008 and 2009 was among Blacks, followed by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics respectively.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Lesser Violent Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

	2008	2009	Total
Black	65.7	59.7	62.7
Hispanic	13.9	15.3	14.0
Minority	54.1	48.7	51.4
White	16.6	15.9	16.3

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for lesser violent offenses in 2008 and 2009 among Blacks was 3.9 times the juvenile arrest rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for Minorities was 3.2 times the arrest rate for Whites. Among Hispanics, the juvenile arrest rate for weapon offenses was 90% of the juvenile arrest rate for Whites.

**Relative Rate Indices for Lesser Violent Offense Arrests
by Selected Racial Categories**

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	4.0	3.7	3.9
Hispanic	0.8	1.0	0.9
Minority	3.3	3.1	3.2
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Blacks had the highest juvenile arrest rate for property offenses in 2008 and 2009 followed by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Property Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	73.7	69.1	71.4
Hispanic	20.8	22.7	20.9
Minority	61.4	57.3	59.3
White	30.4	28.2	29.2

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for property offenses among Blacks was 2.4 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate among Minorities was 2.0 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate among Hispanics was 70% of the arrest rate among Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Property Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	2.4	2.5	2.4
Hispanic	0.7	0.8	0.7
Minority	2.0	2.0	2.0
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Blacks had the highest juvenile arrest rate for drug offenses, followed by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics respectively.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Drug Offense Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	18.5	16.1	17.3
Hispanic	7.0	7.6	7.0
Minority	15.8	13.9	14.8
White	13.6	13.6	13.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for drug offenses among Blacks was 1.3 times the juvenile arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for drug offenses among Minorities was 1.1 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for drug offenses among Hispanics was 50% of the arrest rate among Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Drug Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	1.4	1.2	1.3
Hispanic	0.5	0.6	0.5
Minority	1.2	1.0	1.1
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for status offenses in 2008 and 2009 was highest among Blacks, followed in order by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Status Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	8.0	8.3	8.1
Hispanic	6.9	3.8	5.2
Minority	7.5	7.1	7.3
White	7.2	4.7	5.9

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for status offenses among Blacks was 1.4 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for status offenders among Minorities was 1.2 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for status offenses among Hispanics was 90% of the arrest rate among Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Status Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	1.1	1.8	1.4
Hispanic	1.0	0.8	0.9
Minority	1.0	1.5	1.2
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for all other offenses in 2008 and 2009 was highest among Blacks, followed by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics respectively.

Juvenile Arrest Rates for Other Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	106.6	92.0	99.3
Hispanic	28.5	23.4	25.0
Minority	88.7	75.1	81.8
White	35.6	28.4	31.9

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The juvenile arrest rate for other offenses among Blacks was 3.1 times the arrest rate for Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for other offenses among Minorities was 2.6 times the arrest rate among Whites. The juvenile arrest rate for other offenses among Hispanics was 80% of the arrest rate among Whites.

Relative Rate Indices for Other Offense Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	3.0	3.2	3.1
Hispanic	0.8	0.8	0.8
Minority	2.5	2.6	2.6
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Black juveniles had the highest percentage of on-sight arrests (66.5%) among the selected racial categories. White juveniles had the highest percentage of arrests via uniform traffic tickets (21.7%) and via a pre-existing warrant (20.3%).

**Percentage of Types of Arrest by Selected Racial Category
2008 and 2009**

Racial Category	On-Sight Arrests	Uniform Traffic Ticket	Warrant
Black	66.5%	14.1%	19.3%
Hispanic	63.2%	19.6%	17.2%
Minority	66.3%	14.5%	19.2%
White	58.0%	21.7%	20.3%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Black juveniles had the highest on-sight arrest rate, followed by Minority juveniles, White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

On-Sight Arrest Rates for Juveniles by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	205.7	178.8	192.3
Hispanic	54.8	45.0	49.8
Minority	171.0	146.3	158.6
White	65.7	56.2	60.9

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The on-sight arrest rate for Black juveniles was 3.2 times the on-sight arrest rate for White juveniles. The on-sight arrest rate for Minority juveniles was 2.6 times the on-sight arrest rate for White juveniles while the on-sight arrest rate for Hispanic juveniles was 80% of the on-sight arrest rate among White juveniles.

Relative Rate Indices for On-Sight Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	3.1	3.2	3.2
Hispanic	0.8	0.8	0.8
Minority	2.6	2.6	2.6
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Black juveniles had the highest uniform traffic ticket arrest rate, followed by Minority juveniles, White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

Uniform Traffic Ticket Arrest Rates for Juveniles by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	41.8	39.9	40.8
Hispanic	15.0	15.9	15.4
Minority	35.5	33.7	34.6
White	24.2	21.4	22.8

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The uniform traffic ticket arrest rate for Black juveniles was 1.8 times the uniform traffic ticket arrest rate for White juveniles. The uniform traffic ticket arrest rate for Minority juveniles was 1.5 times the arrest rate for White juveniles. The uniform traffic ticket arrest rate for Hispanic juveniles was 70% of the arrest rate for White juveniles.

Relative Rate Indices for Uniform Traffic Ticket Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	1.7	1.9	1.8
Hispanic	0.6	0.7	0.7
Minority	1.5	1.6	1.5
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Black juveniles had the highest warrant arrest rate, followed in order by Minority juveniles, White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

Warrant Arrests Rates for Juveniles by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	57.8	53.9	55.9
Hispanic	15.8	11.5	13.6
Minority	48.1	43.9	46.0
White	22.3	20.4	21.3

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The warrant arrest rate for Black juveniles was 2.6 times the warrant arrest rate for White juveniles. The warrant arrest rate for Minority juveniles was 2.2 times the warrant arrest rate for White juveniles. The warrant arrest rate for Hispanic juveniles was 60% of the warrant arrest rate for White juveniles.

Relative Rate Indices for Warrant Arrests by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	2.6	2.6	2.6
Hispanic	0.7	0.6	0.6
Minority	2.2	2.2	2.2
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

A higher percentage of Black juvenile arrestees (41.7%) were handled internally by law enforcement departments than were Minority juveniles (41.5%), White juveniles (40.3%) or Hispanic juveniles (38.4%).

Juvenile Arrestees by Type of Referral by Selected Racial Categories 2008 and 2009

Racial Category	External		Internal	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Black	11,181	58.3%	7,991	41.7%
Hispanic	732	61.6%	457	38.4%
Minority	11,969	58.5%	8,498	41.5%
White	7,352	59.7%	4,968	40.3%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Black juveniles had the highest rate of being armed at the time of arrest, followed in order by Minority juveniles, White juveniles and Hispanic juveniles.

Arrest Rate for Juveniles Armed at Arrest by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	11.2	8.0	9.6
Hispanic	2.6	2.2	2.4
Minority	9.3	6.6	7.9
White	2.7	2.5	2.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The arrest rate while armed for Black juveniles was 3.7 times the arrest rate for White juveniles. Minority juveniles had an arrest rate while armed that was 3.1 times that of White juveniles. Hispanic juveniles had an arrest rate while armed that was 90% of the rate for White juveniles.

Relative Rate Indices for Juveniles Arrested while Armed by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	4.2	3.3	3.7
Hispanic	1.0	0.9	0.9
Minority	3.5	2.7	3.1
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The highest rate of juveniles arrested while armed with firearms was among Blacks, followed by Minorities, Hispanics and Whites.

Arrest Rate for Juveniles Armed with a Firearm at Arrest by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	5.7	3.8	4.7
Hispanic	0.8	0.4	0.6
Minority	4.6	3.0	3.8
White	0.4	0.6	0.5

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The rate of juveniles arrested while armed with a firearm for Blacks was 9.4 times the rate for Whites. The RRI comparing the rate of arrest rate while armed with a firearm for

Minority juveniles to White juveniles was 7.5. The RRI comparing the rate of juveniles arrested while armed with a firearm for Hispanics to Whites was 1.2.

**Relative Rate Indices for Juveniles Arrested with a Firearm
by Selected Racial Categories**

	2008	2009	Total
Black	12.7	6.8	9.4
Hispanic	1.9	0.7	1.2
Minority	10.3	5.4	7.5
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The highest rate of juveniles committing an offense involving firearms was among Blacks, followed in order by Minorities, Whites and Hispanics.

Firearm Offense Rates by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	23.0	18.5	20.8
Hispanic	1.4	1.7	1.5
Minority	18.3	14.6	16.4
White	2.2	2.1	2.1

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The offense rate for Black juveniles committing an offense with a firearm was 9.7 times the rate for Whites. The RRI comparing the rate of firearm offenses for Minority juveniles to White juveniles was 7.7. The RRI comparing the juvenile firearm offense rate for Hispanics to Whites was 0.7.

Relative Rate Indices for Juvenile Firearm Offenses by Selected Racial Categories

Racial Category	2008	2009	Total
Black	10.5	8.9	9.7
Hispanic	0.6	0.8	0.7
Minority	8.4	7.0	7.7
White	1.0	1.0	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The private residence category was the most frequently reported offense location among juvenile offenders, and was true for Blacks, Hispanics, Minorities and Whites. The second most frequent offense location category was schools. A higher percentage of Minority juvenile offenders committed offenses in schools than White juvenile offenders. Among Minority juvenile offenders, schools were the location for 27.4% of offenses; among White juvenile offenders, schools were the location for 22.3% of offenses. Conversely, among White juvenile offenders 42.8% of the reported locations were private residences compared to 35.9% for Minority juvenile offenders.

**Juvenile Offenders by Offense Location by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Location	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Commercial	994	59	1,065	782
Highway, Road, Street	4,639	164	4,818	2,114
Other	2,122	93	2,226	1,534
Parking Lot	1,242	73	1,324	720
Private Residence	13,095	503	13,679	9,880
Retail	4,299	258	4,582	2,908
School	9,830	554	10,428	5,158
Total	36,221	1,704	38,122	23,096

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

The location with the highest juvenile offender rate, for each selected racial category, was private residences. The location with the second highest juvenile offender rate for each of the selected racial categories was schools.

**Juvenile Offender Rates by Location by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Location	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Commercial	15.0	3.9	12.4	6.7
Highway, Road, Street	133.6	10.9	56.3	18.0
Other	63.3	6.2	26.0	13.1
Parking Lot	30.7	4.8	15.5	6.1
Private Residence	395.4	33.3	159.9	84.3
Retail	129.8	17.1	53.6	24.8
School	296.8	36.7	121.9	44.0

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

The greatest level of disproportionality in offender rates was at the highway/road/street location among Black juveniles, with an RRI of 7.4 compared to White juveniles. The second highest level of disproportionality in juvenile offender rates was at schools among Blacks, with an RRI of 6.7 compared to Whites.

**Relative Rate Indices by Offense Location by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Location	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Commercial	2.2	0.6	1.9	1.0
Highway, Road, Street	7.4	0.6	3.1	1.0
Other	4.8	0.5	2.0	1.0
Parking Lot	5.0	0.8	2.5	1.0
Private Residence	4.7	0.4	1.9	1.0
Retail	5.2	0.7	2.2	1.0
School	6.7	0.8	2.8	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Day of the week and time of day were used to determine times of day for weekdays (Monday through Friday) and weekends (Sunday and Saturday). An approximation of school time (8:00 AM to 2:59 PM) and after school time (3:00 pm to 5:59 PM) was calculated for weekdays, not taking into account month or school holidays. Weekend days were divided into morning (8:00 AM to 11:59 AM) afternoon (noon to 5:59 PM) evening (6:00 PM to 9:59 PM) and late hours (10:00 PM to 7:59 AM). The same definition for evening and late hours on weekends was applied to weekdays. Among Minority juvenile offenders, 31.7% of the reported offenses were committed during school hours, compared to 28.6% for Whites.

**Juvenile Offenders by Day/Time by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Day/Time	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Weekdays	28,206	1,330	29,691	17,211
School Hours	11,371	583	12,018	6,558
After School	6,775	320	7,125	3,871
Evening	5,955	235	6,226	3,632
Late Hours	4,105	192	4,322	3,150
Weekends	7,804	364	8,210	5,725
Morning	725	25	752	546
Afternoon	2,880	134	3,037	2,157
Evening	2,419	111	2,535	1,463
Late Hours	1,780	94	1,886	1,559

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS.

Minority and Black juvenile offender rates exceeded those of White juveniles for every day/time period. The highest juvenile offender rate was Black juveniles during weekdays, followed by Minority juveniles during weekdays. Among the sub-groups for day/time period, the highest offender rates were among Black juveniles during school hours and Minority juveniles during school hours.

**Juvenile Offender Rates by Day/Time by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Day/Time	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Weekdays	425.1	88.1	347.0	146.8
School Hours	171.4	38.6	140.5	55.9
After School	102.1	21.2	83.3	33.0
Evening	89.7	15.6	72.8	31.0
Late Hours	61.9	12.7	50.5	26.9
Weekends	117.6	24.1	96.0	48.8
Morning	10.9	1.7	8.8	4.7
Afternoon	43.4	8.9	35.5	18.4
Evening	36.5	7.4	29.6	12.5
Late Hours	26.8	6.2	22.0	13.3

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

The RRs comparing Black and Minority juveniles to White juveniles were above 1.0 for all day/time periods. The RRs comparing Hispanic juveniles to White juveniles for all day/time periods were all below 1.0. For both after school hours and during school hours, the RRs comparing Black juveniles to White juveniles was 3.1. For both after school hours and during school hours, the RRs comparing Minority juveniles to White juveniles was 2.5.

**Relative Rate Indices by Day/Time by Selected Racial Categories
2008 and 2009**

Day/Time	Black	Hispanic	Minority	White
Weekdays	2.9	0.6	2.4	1.0
School Hours	3.1	0.7	2.5	1.0
After School	3.1	0.6	2.5	1.0
Evening	2.9	0.5	2.3	1.0
Late Hours	2.3	0.5	1.9	1.0
Weekends	2.4	0.5	2.0	1.0
Morning	2.3	0.4	1.9	1.0
Afternoon	2.4	0.5	1.9	1.0
Evening	2.9	0.6	2.4	1.0
Late Hours	2.0	0.5	1.7	1.0

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Lee County had the highest RRI for both Black and Minority juveniles compared to White juveniles in 2008. Sumter County reported the highest RRI for Hispanic juveniles compared to White juveniles. Saluda County had the lowest RRI for both Black and Minority juvenile arrests compared to White juveniles. Bamberg County had the lowest RRI for Hispanic juveniles compared to White juveniles.

**Relative Rate Indices for Arrests by County by Selected Racial Categories
2008**

County	Black	Hispanic	Minority	County	Black	Hispanic	Minority
Abbeville	3.3	NA	3.1	Greenwood	4.4	0.4	3.8
Aiken	3.1	1.6	2.6	Hampton	3.4	NA	3.2
Allendale	3.0	NA	2.9	Horry	2.1	2.0	1.5
Anderson	1.8	1.8	1.6	Jasper	1.5	3.6	1.1
Bamberg	2.9	0.1	3.2	Kershaw	3.5	NA	2.9
Barnwell	2.4	3.1	2.3	Lancaster	2.1	NA	1.7
Beaufort	2.7	0.9	1.9	Laurens	2.5	3.3	2.0
Berkeley	2.7	1.6	2.2	Lee	12.7	NA	11.8
Calhoun	5.2	NA	4.8	Lexington	2.3	4.0	1.6
Charleston	5.1	1.3	4.2	McCormick	0.0	NA	0.0
Cherokee	3.5	NA	2.8	Marion	3.9	NA	3.6
Chester	3.2	0.4	3.1	Marlboro	2.5	NA	2.2
Chesterfield	2.9	1.2	2.6	Newberry	3.5	2.7	2.5
Clarendon	2.4	NA	2.1	Oconee	3.6	2.3	2.2
Colleton	8.5	NA	7.7	Orangeburg	2.7	1.1	2.5
Darlington	2.5	3.0	2.4	Pickens	2.8	1.0	2.0
Dillon	2.1	NA	1.8	Richland	5.3	0.7	4.7
Dorchester	2.4	2.2	2.0	Saluda	1.0	NA	0.5
Edgefield	NA	NA	NA	Spartanburg	8.6	1.6	5.9
Fairfield	3.6	1.7	3.5	Sumter	2.7	5.2	2.4
Florence	3.5	3.5	3.2	Union	1.6	NA	1.5
Georgetown	3.1	NA	2.7	Williamsburg	7.9	NA	7.6
Greenville	3.8	1.3	2.5	York	3.1	1.3	2.4

Notes: NA (not applicable) was used when an RRI could not be calculated because there were no arrests for the specific subgroup of interest since zero cannot be divided into another number. An RRI of zero resulted when there were no comparison group (White) arrests since zero divided by any other number equals zero. In each circumstance, the result was that a meaningful comparison could not be made.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Marion County had the highest juvenile arrest RRI for both Blacks and Minorities compared to White juveniles in 2009. Georgetown County had the highest arrest RRI for comparing Hispanic juveniles to White juveniles. Hampton County had the lowest arrest RRI for both Black and Minority juveniles compared to White juveniles. The lowest arrest RRI for Hispanic juveniles compared to White juveniles was recorded in Bamberg County.

**Relative Rate Indices for Arrests by County for Selected Racial Categories
2009**

County	Black HispanicMinority			County	Black HispanicMinority		
Abbeville	3.2	NA	3.0	Greenwood	7.5	0.6	5.9
Aiken	3.0	1.4	2.5	Hampton	0.6	NA	0.5
Allendale	NA	NA	NA	Horry	2.1	2.2	1.5
Anderson	2.5	1.9	2.1	Jasper	3.3	1.8	2.3
Bamberg	8.0	0.2	7.9	Kershaw	2.9	2.0	2.5
Barnwell	1.9	NA	1.8	Lancaster	2.8	2.2	2.3
Beaufort	3.0	0.9	2.1	Laurens	2.8	2.9	2.2
Berkeley	2.8	1.2	2.3	Lee	4.8	NA	4.4
Calhoun	5.1	NA	4.7	Lexington	2.5	2.7	1.7
Charleston	5.1	1.0	4.2	McCormick	NA	NA	NA
Cherokee	3.2	NA	2.5	Marion	12.0	0.4	11.3
Chester	2.4	1.4	2.3	Marlboro	6.1	NA	5.4
Chesterfield	2.4	0.5	2.3	Newberry	2.9	1.6	2.1
Clarendon	1.9	NA	1.7	Oconee	3.0	2.1	1.8
Colleton	2.9	NA	2.6	Orangeburg	2.5	NA	2.4
Darlington	2.3	NA	2.2	Pickens	1.9	1.2	1.4
Dillon	3.1	NA	2.7	Richland	3.8	2.2	3.3
Dorchester	2.3	2.3	1.9	Saluda	1.8	NA	0.9
Edgefield	1.5	NA	1.3	Spartanburg	5.3	1.1	3.7
Fairfield	7.5	0.3	7.3	Sumter	3.8	4.6	3.4
Florence	3.2	2.8	2.9	Union	2.8	NA	2.7
Georgetown	3.1	9.6	2.7	Williamsburg	7.6	NA	7.4
Greenville	3.2	1.6	2.1	York	2.9	1.6	2.2

Notes: NA (not applicable) was used when an RRI could not be calculated because there were no arrests for the specific subgroup of interest since zero cannot be divided into another number. An RRI of zero resulted when there were no comparison group (White) arrests since zero divided by any other number equals zero. In each circumstance, the result was that a meaningful comparison could not be made.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, Population estimates.

Summary

The first and most readily apparent finding of this report is that Minority juveniles were overrepresented for every arrest or offense measure. Looking at total arrest rates, Minority juveniles were 2.3 times as likely to be arrested as White juveniles. Looking more closely at Minority arrest rates, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American juveniles had lower total arrest rates than White juveniles, a fact which provided a narrower focus to the problem of disproportionate minority arrests. Specifically, the disproportionate minority arrest problem as it exists in South Carolina is really one of disproportionate arrest rates between Black juveniles and White juveniles. Black juveniles were arrested 2.8 times as often as White juveniles. Although the degree of disproportionality varied by sex, arrest offense category and circumstances associated with the arrest or offense, there were no statewide situations observed in which a subset of Black juveniles was arrested at a rate equal to or less than the arrest or offense rate for the corresponding subset of White juveniles. These differences were observed consistently across sex, arrest offense categories, offense location, weapon involvement, time of day and every other factor examined.

Although overrepresentation of Black juveniles was found across all of the hierarchical arrest offense categories, the highest levels of racial disproportionality were found in the two violent offense categories. Disproportionality between Black and White juveniles was highest among serious violent offenses, Black juveniles being arrested 4.7 times as often as White juveniles for these offenses. This was followed in turn by the lesser violent offenses category; Black juveniles were arrested 4.0 times as often as White juveniles for lesser violent offenses such as simple assault and intimidation. The other offense category, weapons offenses, property offenses, drug offenses and status offenses, followed in descending order of the disproportionate rate at which Black juveniles were arrested compared to White juveniles. There were only two hierarchical arrest offense categories for which Black juveniles were arrested at rates less than twice the rate of White juveniles. Black juveniles were arrested 1.4 times as often as White juveniles for drug offenses, and Black juveniles were arrested 1.1 times as often as White juveniles for status offenses.

The type of premises at which juvenile offenses occurred was an important factor and provided important insight into the issue of disproportionality. After the location category of roads, highways and streets, schools (K–12) ranked as the second most frequently reported location category for juvenile offenses with 25.1% of reported juvenile offenses occurring there. The level of racial disproportionality among school offenses was high. The offense rate for Black juveniles at schools was 6.7 times the offense rate for White juveniles. Compared to the level of disparity for all arrests of Black juveniles being arrested 2.8 times as often as White juveniles, this is quite substantial. Additionally, the arrest rate for Black juveniles during an approximation of school hours was 3.1 times the arrest rate for White juveniles during those same hours. This finding raises several important questions for future research. What offenses are reported at schools? To what degree does racial disproportionality vary among the offense categories for offenses committed at schools? To what degree do offenses

reported at schools result in arrests? How are juvenile arrests being handled; are the children being released directly to their parents or to other agencies? What role do teachers and other school staff have in the process? Are school policies and procedures a contributing factor? Further analysis of SCIBRS data could provide an important starting point for answering these questions, but more detailed analysis, possibly involving school data or case studies is required to completely address these concerns. The level of racial disproportionality among offenses reported at schools along with the level of racial disproportionality in and around school hours, combined with the volume of school crime, clearly identifies schools as an important area for prevention and other programmatic initiatives.

Deadly weapon involvement, while a relatively infrequent event, was another finding of importance. The rate of arrest for Black juveniles while armed with a deadly weapon was 3.7 times the rate for White juveniles. Firearm involvement resulted in even higher levels of racial disproportionality. Black juveniles were 9.4 times as likely to be arrested while armed with a firearm as were White juveniles. Similarly, Black juveniles were 9.7 times as likely to have been reported as offenders in an incident involving firearms as White juveniles. While the actual number arrests of juveniles armed with firearms and incidents involving juvenile offenders and firearms were relatively small, representing 1.1% and 2.7% of their respective totals, the high level racial disproportionality associated with firearm involvement is noteworthy and raises important questions. Is the observed level of disproportionality a recent occurrence or is it a long standing situation? How are juveniles coming into possession of firearms and where are the guns coming from? Are juveniles using these weapons acting alone or is gang involvement a contributing factor? Again, SCIBRS data could play an important role in addressing these questions either as a primary data source or as a pointer system to identify particular types of cases as a starting point for more detailed analysis. The comparatively higher levels of deadly weapon and firearm involvement among Black youth combined with the lethal potential of these weapons identifies it as a problem in dire need of prevention and other intervention efforts.

Caution needs to be exercised when reviewing county level measures of disproportionality. The small juvenile populations and small numbers of juvenile arrests in some counties made arrest rates, and thus the corresponding degree of racial disproportionality, very susceptible to seemingly large fluctuations resulting from relatively small numbers of arrests. As an example, Lee County had the state's highest level of racial disproportionality in arrest rates in 2008, with Black juveniles being arrested 12.7 times as often as White juveniles, but the level of disproportionality dropped to Black juveniles being arrested 4.8 times as often as White juveniles in 2009, a decrease of 62.2%. Notably, fewer than 40 juveniles were arrested each of those years in Lee County and only three of the juveniles arrested were White, hence the large degree of variability in the level of racial disparity from one year to the next. There were also several instances in which a county had no juveniles of a racial group were arrested so it was impossible to calculate an RRI for that subgroup, or to calculate an RRI at all if no White juveniles were arrested. Even so, racial disproportionality in county arrest rates was widespread. There were only three instances in which counties had arrest rates

where Black juveniles were arrested at rates equal to or less than the rates for White juveniles: McCormick County in 2008, Saluda County in 2008 and Hampton County in 2009. McCormick County's low level of disproportionality cannot be considered a valid indicator of low disproportionality as it was the result of no White juveniles being arrested that year. It is also important to note that all three counties had small juvenile populations, Hampton County being the largest with a juvenile population of 5,009. As noted earlier, small changes in the number of arrests of one racial category in such counties can result in seemingly large changes in the RRI value.

The question concerning why such disproportionate arrest and offense rates were found between Black and White juveniles remains unanswered by this report. Since SCIBRS requires an arrest to be reported for all juveniles taken into custody including "catch and release" situations, if SCIBRS arrest reporting policy was followed, it is difficult to identify police officer discretion at the point of arrest as a factor in racial disproportionality among juvenile arrest rates. That being the case, it would be inaccurate to cite the reporting policy as definitive evidence that officer discretion is not a factor in racial disproportionality. There are two circumstances associated with juvenile arrests, collected by SCIBRS, which could serve as indicators of officer discretion. The first is the type of arrest, specifically the degree to which juveniles are released on a uniform traffic ticket versus the other, more custodial, types of arrest could be interpreted as an indicator of officer discretion. Along those lines, a larger percentage of White juvenile arrestees (20.3%) were arrested via a uniform traffic ticket than was the case among Black (19.3%), Hispanic (17.2%) and Minority (19.2%) juveniles. Although this is not evidence of officer discretion as a factor in racial disproportionality, it certainly points to an important area for additional, more detailed research including case study level inquiry. The second indicator of officer discretion is how the department handles the case, i.e., was the juvenile referred to an external agency or handled internally and released. A larger percentage of Black juveniles (41.7%) were handled internally than was the case for Minority juveniles (41.5%), White juveniles (40.3%) and Hispanic juveniles (38.4%). Again, the value of this finding is more as an indicator of the need for additional, more detailed research and analysis, not as evidence of the differential results of officer discretion.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that there are numerous factors well beyond the scope of analysis of crime incident data that are likely to affect disproportionality in the juvenile arrest rates among racial categories. Such factors would include law enforcement policies such as resource allocation, patrol patterns and other practices. Other factors such as differential community crime reporting practices, school policies concerning crime response and reporting, social attitudes as well as a whole host of social/environmental/economic conditions including juvenile behavioral patterns should also be considered as possible contributing factors to racial disproportionality among juvenile arrest and offense rates. The scope of this report is necessarily such that it raises at least as many questions as it answers.

Sources

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